



# Fire Services Committee Meeting Minutes 1/12/2016



## CALL TO ORDER

The January 12, 2016 meeting of the Allegany County Fire Services Committee was called to order by Chairman Tim Dayton at 6:00 P.M.

## IN ATTENDANCE

The following companies/departments were represented and in attendance:

Ken May	LaVale Rescue	Scott Yates	Shaft
Roger Bennett	911 Center	Ryan Reichert	LaVale Fire
Tim Growden	Special Ops/CFD	Walter May	LaVale Fire
Phillip Via	911 Center	Susan Lee	Dept. of Emergency Services
Tim Dayton	Potomac/Luke	John Herath	EMS Division
Ken Wolford	Oldtown	Jim Van Meter	Corriganville
John Reginaldi	MEMA	Brandon Cobb	Corriganville
Daniel Yaider	CVFD	Dick DeVore	Emergency Services
Mark McDonald	LaVale Fire		

## COMMITTEES

### 1. PUMPS TESTS

The group discussed the need for this group to have a laptop dedicated to the pumps tests. Tim Dayton will speak with Steve Ellsworth about the issue.

### 2. KNOX BOX

Roger Bennett reported that the conversion is complete. If anyone wants to order a new one, contact Roger. He has the necessary paperwork and model number for the new Safe-Lock one that is the permanent replacement.

### 3. BOX ALARMS

Roger asked for any box alarm updates to be sent to him. He also noted that blank data sheets were emailed out in PDF form, but if companies want it in word format, let him know. These updated data sheets assist us with who everyone is, current phone numbers, etc.

### 4. STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Scott Yates reported that the committee is being switched over to the Emergency Services Board to create some committees directly from that Board. Dick DeVore clarified that some people have volunteered willing to assist in two policy committees under the Emergency Services Board whose purpose will be to actually generate some policies and send it back for input from Fire Chiefs. A safety committee will also be formed under the Emergency Services Board.

## 5. FIT TESTING

Both machines have been signed out and have not been returned. Some companies do not return the equipment for weeks after testing. Companies need to return the machines in a more timely fashion so other companies can utilize the equipment.

## DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

### 6. COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

#### Fire Reports

Roger Bennett reported that we've been doing very well on errors. The same companies are providing the reports on the State-required monthly basis, with the same that only do it every three months. Once the State catches on, we will likely see some ramifications for the companies who refuse to do monthly reporting.

#### I Am Responding

Roger Bennett reported that we have two "out-of-county" companies that we dispatch who do not utilize the I Am Responding Program. We've given them a cut-off date of April to acquire the program in order for us to continue to dispatch them. All other companies we run mutual aid with now utilize the I Am Responding software. Training is available thru the I Am Responding company in the form of an hour-long webinar for the members of your companies.

#### Tower Sites

- Dan's – Purchase order should be cut this month to start. The timber will be cut down to where the tower site will be and should be complete this spring/early summer.
- Warrior – Meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January and it's going a little slower, but it's still going to be the main site on that end of the county.
- Barton – still working on the land deal with the owner and we hope to start the project as a county project up on Russell Road.
- Big Savage – Still on hold for Indian Burial Site 60-day review.
- Town Hill – The 700 MHz is in and just needs to be turned on.

#### AFG Grant

We still have a few companies we need a few things from, but the grant is in. It's going to be a county-sponsored 15% match to give you a mobile for every one of your in-service vehicles and a repeater for every ambulance, command vehicle, and engine. If you do want to buy your own radios, make sure you speak with Roger or Phil so they can provide you with proper specs so it will operate on our system and the surrounding county systems.

### 7. EMS DIVISION

John Herath reported that the fail rate of 5.33% was for the entire year with six companies with double-digit fail rates. An ALS Refresher class is being held. Miltenberger will be held March 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Also, we are doing an AFG grant for EMS for four LifePak 15's.

### 8. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

#### LEPC

Susan Lee reported the the LEPC met and discussed the committee's by-laws, which will likely be adopted at the next meeting. She added that the LEPC meetings are open to the public and are held four times a year.

#### Western Region MEMA Rep

John Reginaldi, Western Maryland MEMA representative, introduced himself to the group, providing his background and qualifications. He encouraged any to contact him with any issues.

## OLD BUSINESS

### 1. Fire Tax

Dick DeVore reported the group that's been meeting to discuss the fire tax have been back and forth on a number of issues before coming back to the Fire Services Committee for their input before passing onto the Commissioners.

### 2. Appropriations

Dick DeVore has been asked by the Commissioners to review the appropriations schedule to see if there's a more equitable way to distribute. Dick asked companies to consider the following: the size of your response area, the assessable base within your response area, and your population – would those three things be fair to build a formula off of? Please consider that and let him know.

### 3. LOSAP Data

Every companies LOSAP info and income tax qualifying and non-qualifying lists must be turned into Cheri by January 31<sup>st</sup> deadline. The new tax form is on the MSFA website.

### 4. MFRI/MIEMSS National Registry Prep

There are approximately 30-40 students caught up in the issue (719 across the state). If you have anyone that either tested or didn't test and failed the test and received an EMR card from MIEMSS, tell them to continue as there are dates for the Prep Course where they can continue to get their National Registry EMT.

## NEW BUSINESS

### 1. Operations and Expenditures Report

Dick DeVore reported that we'll be revamping the Operations and Expenditures form. We began to run into a problem last year with the reports. We now input all your O&E data onto a county-wide database and had some issues with some of the information, but the form will be revamped.

### 2. Residential Sprinklers

Tim Dayton reported that the residential sprinkler issue will be a big topic in Annapolis this year. Several Delegates and Senators have signed on as a sponsor of that bill. Allegany County does have an incentive if you do have a sprinkler system put in, they give you a \$500 break for three years on your taxes. The City of Frostburg still has their incentive on-place. Talk to your delegates and let them know the fire service still needs their support.

### 3. Election of Officers

Chairman - Tim Dayton  
Vice-Chairman – Scott Yates  
At-Large – Mickey McGowan  
Alternate – Tim Growden

## NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Fire Services Committee will be held on March 8, 2016 at 6pm at the Emergency Services Headquarters in Mexico Farms.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Tim Dayton at 7:30 P.M.

TD:cjl